

2005 Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005)

Whidbey Island Conservation District



Most Significant Natural Resource Accomplishment

- At the AuSable Institute Pacific Rim Campus in Coupeville, Whidbey Island Conservation District funded and designed an underground cistern demonstration and workshop project to harvest rainwater for irrigation use and native prairie plant propagation. This project continues to serve as a key outreach tool and demonstration site on Central Whidbey Island. It plays an important role in promoting water conservation and innovative agricultural utility where water quantity issues are a growing concern.



Mission of the Whidbey Island Conservation District

- The Whidbey Island Conservation District serves residents of Whidbey Island in conserving natural resources through educational outreach as well as technical and financial assistance to provide a healthy environment for present and future generations.
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Natural Resource Improvements in 2005 - Summary

- Completed 24 farm plans and 3 forest stewardship plans for local landowners to implement best management practices that will reduce erosion, improve soil quality, enhance wildlife habitat, reduce contaminated run-off.
 - Completed 80 site visits to provide technical assistance and address specific resource issues.
 - Facilitated services for 4 landowners who qualified and participated in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.
 - Facilitated services for 6 landowners regarding the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.
 - Provided native plants for conservation plantings to 150 landowners.
 - Implemented an extensive public information and outreach program through 13 focus workshops reaching over 285 Whidbey Island residents.
 - Performed outreach and education presentations and displays at large event opportunities reaching more than 23,000 participants.
 - Served as technical advisor to local and regional natural resource planning committees.
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Water Quality Implementation

- Completed planning and cost-share for over 2000' of exclusion fencing for two landowners with surface water concerns to keep livestock out of streams, one of which is salmon-bearing.
 - Planned and completed best management practices for more than 40 landowners involving nutrient management, use exclusion, tree/shrub establishment, pasture management, fencing, forage harvest management, heavy use area protection, and roof runoff structures.
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Basic Funding

- Managed essential District operations and financial commitments.
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Puget Sound/Water Quality

- Identified and planned best management practices outreach for residents within high susceptibility critical aquifer recharge areas of Whidbey Island.
- Planned and completed best management practices for more than 35 landowners involving nutrient management, use exclusion, tree/shrub establishment, pasture management, fencing, forage harvest management, heavy use area protection, and roof runoff structures.

Professional Engineering

- *Partnered, designed and replaced a perched culvert on the Scoles property of Maxwellton Creek to allow for much needed salmon passage.*
- *Performed wetland enhancement and restoration engineering service to 4 landowners of critical areas.*
- *Evaluated and designed 4 small farm drainage improvement projects.*
- *Provided technical assistance and funding source options to 1 Water and Sewage District and 1 Diking and Drainage District.*
- *Provided irrigation improvement design and low impact development service to 2 landowners.*

Livestock/Dairy

- *Facilitated research and recommendations regarding former manure storage lagoon to assist with drainage planning efforts on Ebey's Reserve.*
- *Assembled and coordinated a local Agriculture Committee to address dairy and livestock farming needs and natural resource concerns.*
- *Provided technical assistance regarding animal feeding operations to 5 landowners.*

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- *Formed partnership with Island County and Maxwellton Salmon Adventure to identify and remedy all perched culverts in Maxwellton watershed.*

Small Farm Programs

- *Expanded outreach to landowners in 2005 and increased by 100% our small farm services and on-the-ground conservation planning.*

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- *Developed an effective working partnership and regular coordination between the District and Island County Planning and Public Works.*
- *Coordinated and facilitated over 15 agricultural stakeholders including congressional delegates and staff, community and economic leaders, and local farmers to develop strategies for sustainable agriculture in Island County.*
- *Continued service to and collaborative efforts with local and regional resource planning committees and entities.*

Marketing/Outreach & Education

- *Conducted a successful Small Farm Workshop focused on water quality and land stewardship that included demonstration activities and projects directly applicable to small farmers wanting to increase production, profitability, and resource protection.*
- *Utilized our internet capabilities and website to maximize outreach and associated expanded learning opportunities associated with 13 workshops conducted in 2005.*

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices

